

Specification Amendments

1. Amendment to the BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWING: (Add these paragraphs to end of list)

FIG. 7 shows an elevation view of an embodiment of the fixing means as a disconnected portion of the convertible furnishing.

FIG. 8 shows a cross-sectional view of another embodiment of the convertible furnishing with the backrest erect.

2. Amendment to the DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION: After this paragraph:

The base upper skin 17 and the base lower skin 16 are layers of the base 1 which participate in holding the tension created by pressure when a load is on the furnishing. The base upper skin 17 and the base lower skin 16 may be gas impermeable layers or other layers.

Add this paragraph:

The fixing means 21 (hatched in FIG. 1) consists of a flexible closed-loop strip forming a single hole with the internal surface of the flexible closed-loop strip not substantially adhered to itself at any place to form a hinge (shown in FIG. 7), an upper edge of the flexible closed-loop strip permanently connected to a lower end of the backrest 2 and a lower edge of the flexible closed-loop strip permanently connected to the base upper skin 17. In the present embodiment the air passage 3 is provided by the entirely open hole through the fixing means 21. The location of the reversible flow of air through the air passage 3 is indicated by the double headed arrow that is intended to indicate a flow of air inside the convertible furnishing (shown more clearly in FIG 7).

3. Amendment to the DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION:

In the embodiment shown in combined elevation and cross-section in FIG. 3 and FIG. 4 the air passage 3 is provided by providing the base 1 and the backrest 2 with a single shared bladder 8 allowing the air to flow back and forth between the backrest 2 and the base 1 through the region of the bladder 8 where the backrest 2

joins the base 1. The location of the reversible flow of air through the air passage 3 is indicated by the double headed arrow (shown more clearly in FIG 7).

The embodiment shown in combined elevation and cross-section in FIG. 3 and FIG. 4 allows the backrest 2 to be easily reclined by an occupant leaning back on the backrest 2 and reducing their weight on the base 1. The fixing means 21 (hatched in FIGS. 3 and 4) is sufficiently flexible to allow the backrest 2 to recline increasingly with deflation of the backrest 2 including when the backrest 2 is under an increasing load, and to allow the backrest 2 to erect increasingly with inflation of the backrest 2 including when the load on the backrest 2 is reducing. In this embodiment the fixing means 21 is a flexible region of the fabric cover 9 where the backrest 2 joins to the base 1. The fabric provides flexibility by folding or curving and bending and contracting at the rear side of the fixing means 21, and bending and stretching at the front side of the fixing means 21 as shown in FIG.4.

4. Amendment to the DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION:

~~It will be realized that the convertible furnishing according to this invention is not restricted to a fixing means 21 having flexibility by folding or curving, but may use other flexible systems such as a bending or hinged frame, or may have no flexibility.~~

5. Amendment to the DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION:

Add these paragraphs:

FIG. 7 shows an elevation view of an embodiment of the fixing means 21 as a disconnected portion of the convertible furnishing shown in FIG. 1. The fixing means 21 consists of a flexible closed-loop strip forming a single hole with the internal surface of the flexible closed-loop strip not substantially adhered to itself at any place to form a hinge. The location of the reversible flow of air through the air passage 3 is indicated by the double headed arrow. The fixing means 21 may be the only connection between the base 1 and the backrest 2.

A cross-sectional view of another embodiment of the convertible furnishing with the backrest erect is shown in FIG. 8 and comprises a gas-permeable cover 51 fully

enclosing a flexible bladder 52, wherein the gas-permeable cover 51 is shaped to form a seat with a base 53 and a backrest 54 and the flexible bladder 52 is not shaped similarly to the gas-permeable cover when it is inflated outside the gas-permeable cover. In one embodiment the flexible bladder 52 is shaped as a laid flat tube as shown in FIG 5. as bladder 8 and described previously.

In the embodiment shown in FIG. 8 a connecting means 57 is provided inside the gas-permeable cover 51 connecting a lower portion of the backrest front side 55 portion of the gas-permeable cover 51 to the base lower side 58 portion of the gas-permeable cover 51 and preferably but not necessarily attaching to the base lower side 58 more forward than the attachment of the connecting means to the lower portion of the backrest front side 55, and the flexible bladder 52 when inflated fills the whole gas-permeable cover 51, preferably without laterally displacing the connecting means 57. Lateral displacement of the connecting means 57 could cause unwanted lateral distortion of the gas-permeable cover 51.

In the embodiment shown in FIG. 8 the backrest front side 55 is shaped to provide a substantially smooth, unfolded, surface above the place of attachment of the connecting means 57 to the lower portion of the backrest front side 55 thereby facilitating an even and uninterrupted flow of tension up the backrest front side 55.

In the embodiment shown in FIG. 8, a region of the gas-permeable cover 51 is flexible and shaped as a loop 56 (shown hatched and assuming that the bladder 52 is transparent) encircling the backrest 54 and including a lower region of the backrest front side 55 and optionally including a rear region of the base 53 adjoining the backrest 54. The loop 56 is a region of the gas-permeable cover 51 that can bend or fold to allow the backrest 54 to recline in the same manner as fixing means 21 previously described with reference to FIG 3 and 4.

In the embodiment shown in FIG. 8 the flexible bladder 52 has a fully inflated volume outside the gas-permeable cover 51 at least twenty percent greater than its fully inflated volume inside the gas-permeable cover 51 with said volumes being measured at a pressure less than two kilopascals.

Before this paragraph:

In the embodiment in the erect state of the backrest 2 shown in FIG. 1 the outer shape of the base 1 has a horizontal width transverse to the usual direction of sitting of about 850 mm, but preferably at least 600mm, to enable the base upper skin 17 to puff upward beside the outer sides of a sitter's thighs thereby providing armrests 7.

End of Specification Amendments